

## NEW PLAN PROPOSED TO RAISE STATE TAXES

Gardner in Address to Invited Conference Shows How Revenue May Be Raised

He Would Not Increase Real Estate Assessments (Says It Would Practically Mean Single Tax), But Would Tax Privileges—Cites California, Where State Is Thus Supported Without a Single Penny from Either Real Estate or Personal Taxes—Suggests Cutting Out Unnecessary Appropriations for Government and Other Departments of State, Eliminating Unnecessary Clerks and Other Sources of Leakage.

"I have invited you to assemble in this city today," (Friday, December 8), said Governor-elect Gardner, "to form what we might call a revenue or tax commission. You are here as citizens to consider the critical condition of the State's finances, and to go over this problem from every angle for the purpose of formulating resolutions to be embodied later in bills to be presented to the incoming Legislature and to be acted upon by that body."

"I feel assured that the recommendations of this representative gathering will have great weight with the Legislature, and I can say to you now that I pledge you my earnest support in carrying out whatever agreement may be reached by this honorable body."

State's Finances Deplorable.

"The condition of the State's finances is deplorable. They must be rehabilitated and that at once."

"On the 31st of this month, the contract labor system of the penitentiary will expire. On that date 2700 convicts will be left without employment, with idle hands, idle brains and practically empty stomachs because the penitentiary has exhausted its credit, and, on Jan. 1, will have unpaid debts amounting to over \$200,000."

"At a conference which I called, and which assembled in this city several days ago, this penitentiary question was considered for two days. The resolutions unanimously adopted by this conference recommended a complete reform of the penitentiary and other penal institutions of this State. These resolutions provided for:

A board of control.  
The purchase of a farm.  
The building of a reformatory.  
Development of the State industries.  
The building of roads.  
These resolutions have my hearty and enthusiastic support. To put these reforms into execution, however, will require the expenditure of a large sum of money."

Large Sums Needed.

"It is not necessary for me to tell you that to develop a large State industry, carry a stock of merchandise, purchase machinery, extend lines of credit, etc., involve a great deal of money. To buy a large farm, build a reformatory and to buy machinery for building roads will require according to my estimate \$1,500,000. Added to this is a deficiency of \$2,000,000, which the incoming administration must face. This amount is now carried by local banks largely in various parts of the State with in-

terest ranging from 6 to 7 per cent.

"I have received many suggestions for improving the State's finances. Most of them must be eliminated because they conflict with our present State Constitution, which was adopted 40 years ago and is altogether unsuited for our requirements today. For instance: Many have suggested that the tax rate be doubled, thus making it 30 cents instead of 15 cents. Others have suggested a graduated land tax. Others have said we should have a different rate of taxation on real estate from that on personal property."

"The suggestion has also been made that the State collect her taxes on one basis and the counties on another."

"None of these suggestions can be carried out under our present Constitution."

"Others have suggested that we amend the Constitution or have a new one. Both the Democratic and the Republican parties are committed to submitting to the people the question of calling a constitutional convention. This question, however, could not be voted upon for two years; and, if adopted, it will then be two years before the people vote on the Constitution, and perhaps another year would be required to place it in operation. So it is utterly useless to talk of meeting the present emergency by changing the Constitution."

Farm Land Question.

"The suggestion has also been made to permit the Board of Equalization to raise the valuation of farm lands sufficiently to bring in all the revenue the State needs. Perhaps nothing is so little understood as the question of farm and land taxation. The total assessed value of farm lands in this State is \$495,005,716."

"This is an increase in ten years of about 33 per cent in the assessed valuation of these lands, or a larger increase than has been made in the assessment of city property."

"Suppose, for instance, this valuation is only 33-1-3 per cent, and that city real estate is assessed at 66-2-3 per cent. If the farm lands, therefore, were doubled in assessed value, they would yield annually \$742,508, 57 additional revenue. Two hundred forty seven thousand, four hundred sixty-seven dollars would immediately be returned to the public schools, so that the net revenue available would be only \$495,000."

"If the farm lands were increased to their full valuation, and city property increased to its full valuation, it would be placing a larger burden on the city than it at present bears because an increase of 66-2-3 per cent on farm values would not be so great as an increase of 33-1-3 per cent on city property. And were these two increases made, in view of the small amount of personal property returned under our present system, it would practically mean that the State was run on the single tax plan which has been overwhelmingly condemned by the people of this State."

## New State Taxes Proposed by Governor-Elect Gardner

A—Increasing the collateral inheritance tax from 5 to 7½ per cent. Estimated annual yield.....	\$ 150,000
(This entire inheritance tax to be diverted to the general revenue fund, the appropriation to the University to be made from the general revenue fund direct.)	
B—General inheritance tax, 3 per cent.....	1,000,000
(Our Supreme Court has decided a graduated tax is not constitutional.)	
C—Tax on capital and surplus or on gross receipts of corporations.....	1,000,000
D—Income tax.....	500,000
E—Mortgage recording tax.....	300,000
F—Secured debt tax.....	100,000
G—Soft drinks, manufacturers and dispensers.....	500,000
H—Increase saloon licenses to \$500.....	750,000
I—Picture shows, pool rooms, theatres.....	350,000
J—Tobacco, manufacturers and retailers.....	100,000
K—Increase oil tax from 12 to 24¢ per barrel.....	175,000
L—Tax on output of mines (coal and mineral).....	100,000
M—A general State poll tax of \$1.....	750,000
Present annual revenue.....	5,600,000

Total.....\$11,325,000  
Or for biennial period.....22,650,000  
Less one-third for public schools.....7,550,000

Balance.....\$15,100,000  
Present deficiency.....\$2,000,000  
For equipping penitentiary, for State industries, road building, farm and reformatory (under new plan).....1,500,000

Total.....\$3,500,000

Total available for biennial appropriations.....\$11,600,000  
Present available, less one-third for school.....7,766,700

Leaving net amount available for 1917-18.....\$ 3,833,700  
(If all the suggestions are approved the amount specified will be available for 1917-18 over 1915-16.)

### System in Other States.

"It would also mean that we were adopting a policy in Missouri exactly contrary to the thought of every other State in the Union. Most of the States are now leaving the taxation of their real estate and personal property to the counties, and the State is supported largely by taxes on what might be called privileges, or special property taxes."

"I am submitting to you herewith a statement of the receipts from taxation of the State of California for the last year of over \$20,000,000, from which it will be observed that not one penny is received from either real estate or personal taxes of individuals. It is all from what might be called privilege taxes. The same plan holds good in almost all of our other States at the present time."

"Aside from this view of it, it must be borne in mind that upon these farm lands of Missouri rests the future of the State. The farmer is today engaged in a less productive industry than any in the State. We have stood idly by and watched the decrease of our rural population from 66 per cent 50 years ago to about 23 per cent at the present time."

"We have watched conditions change from no tenant worked farms to a present day condition of 33-1-3 per cent of our farmers being tenants. What we want to do is to secure for the farmer cheaper money; to build good roads so that his produce can be brought to market cheaply; to give him scientific education."

### Money to Farmers High.

"When he has these advantages then the question of farm taxation will solve itself by natural processes. Farmers of Missouri are paying from 6 to 10 per cent for the use of money. In the city we are able to obtain money at 4 per cent. Boys and girls are being driven from the farm by the

thousands. Two-thirds of the agricultural counties of Missouri are losing steadily in population."

"Does not this condition, gentlemen, indicate that great care should be taken lest we impose an unnecessary burden, or any burden that can possibly be avoided, upon the bended backs of these citizens of our State? Does not the price of food supplies indicate that conditions should be better in rural communities, so that they may attract people from the cities and other States to engage in agriculture and thereby increase the supply of food products?"

"I do not wish you to understand that this indicates any policy that I may pursue as a member of the Board of Equalization. I will cross that bridge when I come to it, and will do my duty fearlessly as I see it at that time. But no change in that respect would be available for at least a year and a half, while our emergency is one of today."

"Our trouble in Missouri, as it appears to me, is that we have felt that we should wear a man's suit of clothes. That is to say, we have felt that we have outgrown old ways of doing things here, and that we should get in line with other progressive States and have ordered our affairs conducted in a corresponding manner. But we have been willing to pay only for the boy's size suit of clothes."

### Demands on the State.

"The Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, No. 4-787, of Aug. 14, 1916, says that the average per capita expenditure for all governmental costs, including interests, etc., in the 48 States was 5.03. Missouri's cost was \$2.25, or about 40 per cent of the average. It might be said that the demands upon the State Government of Missouri are very similar to those upon our sister State, Illinois. The general revenue fund of the State of Illinois for 1914 was \$23,560,966, or exactly \$4 per capita."

"For 1914 Missouri's general revenue fund was \$5,547,117.64, or \$1.70 per capita. Now, just how it is possible for Missouri, whose conditions are exactly similar to those of Illinois, to carry on her State government on \$1.70 per capita, where Illinois is spending \$4, and other States on an average of \$5.03, is the question that confronts us. It might be plain to any fair-minded man that it is impossible."

"In 1916 the total revenues of the State will be \$5,600,000. Of this amount \$3,000,000 goes for educational purposes, leaving only approximately \$2,600,000 to carry on all of the activities of the State government of 3,500,000 people. It is out of the question and must be remedied and that at once. I propose to see that every dollar of your money which you spend while I am Governor brings you the maximum of service."

"I expect to rigidly enforce business principles in every department over which I have authority. I expect to practice all business economy consistent with good service, which I know you demand. I expect to start this economy in the Governor's office."

"For instance, the State has been appropriating \$7500 biennially for the Governor's contingent fund, this fund to cover traveling expenses, stationery, etc., and is a perfectly legitimate allowance. But with the present financial condition of the State, I expect to get along without it. I shall not ask for it."

### Economy in Legislature.

"I have talked with a number of Senators and Representatives and all of them have agreed that economy shall be practiced in the organization of the Legislature, and that all useless clerks shall be dispensed with. It is generally agreed that a considerable sum is wasted in duplicate printing of State documents. This shall also be looked into. But when these items are all placed together they can account for only a fraction of what we require. I have thought of a number of sources from which revenue could be raised, and from which revenue is raised in other States, and I now submit them for your consideration, together with an estimated recapitulation should all of these revenue measures be enacted into law."

"If the Constitution permits, the duties of the State Board of Equalization should be given over to a non-partisan board of tax experts and charged with all other duties of a tax commission."

"I recommend that this commission be assembled inviolently the jus-

## A GIFT SUGGESTION

Have you been worrying about what to get for a Christmas present?

If you have, let us solve that problem MOST SATISFACTORILY for you, no matter for whom such present is desired.

A year's subscription—\$ 1.00—will place

THE FARMINGTON TIMES

in the hands of your relative or friend every week during the year 1917, and for at least fifty-two times will remind them most pleasantly of your thoughtfulness. Can you think of anything else that will so abundantly do this, even at a much greater cost to you?

THE FARMINGTON TIMES

is getting better every week, and it is already recognized as one of the VERY BEST county papers in the entire State of Missouri. Its circulation is growing at a rate never before equalled by any St. Francois county paper in history.

Bring in or send us \$ 1.00, together with the address you desire the paper sent, and we will do the rest, each week throughout the entire New Year. Do this and THE TIMES management will guarantee greater satisfaction on the part of the recipient of your \$1.00 investment than you can possibly secure in any other manner.

## The Farmington Times

A. W. BRADSHAW, Editor and Manager

PHONE 59—FARMINGTON, MO.

of paying the county collectors \$500,000 biennially for collecting the State revenues. This is about 8 per cent of the amount collected. The State should pay its proportion of the amount collected and the counties should pay their proportion. That is to say, the State should pay \$100,000 instead of \$500,000."

### Would Amend Law.

"It seems to me that this law should be amended, thus saving the State about \$400,000 biennially."

"The automobile taxes of Missouri are entirely too low and are out of proportion to this tax in other States. I expect to recommend to the Legislature that our tax on automobiles be raised so that it will yield about \$1,000,000 annually. This fund should be set aside largely for building good roads."

"In conclusion, gentlemen, allow me to thank you again for your presence today. I know that you are inspired with a patriotic desire to help solve this problem and to bring order out of chaos; to help make our beloved State all that nature and destiny intended she should be; and I know that you will approach this question from that standpoint."

"These are not political questions, and men of all parties should take pride in helping to solve them wisely and fairly. I promise you today that everything in my power shall be done to assist you and to assist the Legislature with that end in view."

"It is a great problem. It is one in which the people should work together in solving, and I believe that I will have the support of, and that my hands will be upheld by, the good people of this State regardless of party affiliations in my efforts to bring about a much-to-be-desired result."

### WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?

If there is one thing which is regularly said oftener than another—yes, oftener than all other things put together—when the public business gets tangled in this country of ours, it is that what we need above everything is a business man to take hold in a business way, with none of the timidity and petty expediences which weaken the touch of the mere office-seeking politician. We are accustomed to say that we should all rise to the support of such a man—that we would put ourselves behind him, strengthen his hands, and stay in the trenches until his plans become achievements. We have said that a man of sense, character and experience who would trust the people could not fail of support."

Well, we in Missouri have been taken at our word. Fred Gardner, a successful manufacturer, with a special gift, ripened and tested by many years of experience, of securing efficiency in large organizations, has become Governor-elect of Missouri at a time when the State's finances are in a sad snarl."

He has looked the situation over. He is not trying to break anything gently to us. He has no sympathy with the kind of mercy that notified the severity of amputating the dog's tail by taking off an inch a day. He has told us bluntly that we owe at least \$1,700,000, which may be \$2,000,000 when all accounts are in, and that we need \$1,500,000 at once, be-

sides, to meet the penitentiary situation. He has told us that the only thing to do is to pay our debts and to meet our expenses as they arise, and that to do this we must tax ourselves accordingly."

We've got our business man. He has dealt with us with exactly that blunt, nonpolitician-like frankness we have been saying we yearned for all these years. Now, what is going to happen next?

Are we going to make good our promises of co-operation and support? Is Fred Gardner's administration going to prove that the public spirited business man cannot do better than to give his time and strength and business training to the service of his fellow-citizens, or is it going to prove that our loyalty to the desired leader is a virtue of our imaginations only, utterly failing when the real flesh-and-blood man steps out in front of the ranks, and sounds the advance? —Editorial in Monday's Republic.

### MESSAGE TO LIBERAL EUROPE

The great mass of American opinion can be won only by proof that Europe is dominated by liberals. An arrangement with Tories and chauvinists and imperialists is unthinkable, and Americans are watching with some misgiving the internal politics of Britain and Germany. They would take no responsibility for the peace of Europe if policy is to be dictated by men like Carson, Northcliffe and Curzon. The news which has come to us in the last few months has been a serious setback to the propaganda for an abandonment of isolation. Among the most important items of such news are these:

The proposal for a war after the war by means of tariffs, boycotts and what not. If this is attempted it will drive us into isolation. If successful it will ultimately push us into the arms of Germany."

The muddle of Ireland, which has made America question the liberalism of Britain and the sincerity of her talk about small nationalities or the good faith of her interest in Poles, Danes and Alsatians."

The activity of Japan and Russia in China."

The publication of a blacklist. This is regarded by most Americans as a disruption of the world's commerce, not as a military measure against Germany. With Germany and all the adjoining neutrals blocked, America sees no sense in the measure, and regards it as an attempt to destroy Germany, not as an effort to conquer her military power. It is regarded by Americans as insulting and as an invasion of their rights."

We do not believe that these measures represent the will of liberal England. They represent the reaction of wartime.—The New Republic.

Nervous Women. When the nervousness is caused by constipation, as is often the case, you will get quick relief by taking Chamberlain's Tablets. These Tablets also improve the digestion. Obtainable everywhere. adv.

### TOOTHsome MEATS

Of every description can always be secured at Autsen's Meat Market. \$5.00 Coupon Books for \$4.85. Good meat is our specialty. Phone 53.

## Such tobacco enjoyment

as you never thought could be is yours to command quick as you buy some Prince Albert and fire-up a pipe or a home-made cigarette!

Prince Albert gives you every tobacco satisfaction your smoke-appetite ever hankered for. That's because it's made by a patented process that cuts out bite and parch! Prince Albert has always been sold without coupons or premiums. We prefer to give quality!

# PRINCE ALBERT

the national joy smoke

has a flavor as different as it is delightful. You never tasted the like of it! And that isn't strange, either.

Buy Prince Albert every-where tobacco is sold in tippyred bags, 5c; tidyred tins, 10c; handsome pound and half-pound tin humidor—and that corking fine pound crystal-glass humidor with sponge-moistener top that keeps the tobacco in such clevertin—always!

Men who think they can't smoke a pipe or roll a cigarette can smoke and will smoke if they use Prince Albert. And smokers who have not yet given P. A. a try-out certainly have a big surprise and a lot of enjoyment coming their way as soon as they invest in a supply. Prince Albert tobacco will tell its own story!

R. J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO., Winston-Salem, N. C.



Copyright 1916  
by R. J. Reynolds  
Tobacco Co.

On the reverse side of this tidy red tin you will read: "Process Patented July 30th, 1907," which has made three men smoke pipes where one smoked before!



Dr. R. E. Walsh  
Dentist

REALTY BLDG., ROOM 6

FARMINGTON, MO.

Best dental work by the latest methods—and guaranteed

PAINLESS EXTRactions A SPECIALTY

Phone: Office No. 111; Residence 273